

# High School 2004 Released Prompt

## Conventions

### Prompt A

Your community is concerned about the lack of structured activities for youth after school and on weekends. The community leaders are planning the construction of a new youth center.

Write an essay to be read by community leaders convincing them what activities should be included at the youth center. Explain how the activities will have a positive influence on the youth.

Your essay should include:

- An introduction, body, and conclusion.
- A clearly stated position.
- Specific, appropriate reasons.
- Persuasive word choice.

Remember to edit for spelling, grammar, punctuation, and capitalization.

## CONVENTIONS

<p><b>6</b></p> <p>The writing demonstrates exceptionally strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong control of conventions; manipulation of conventions may occur for stylistic effect.</li> <li>• strong, effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text.</li> <li>• correct spelling, even of more difficult words.</li> <li>• paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure.</li> <li>• correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style.</li> <li>• skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece.</li> <li>• little or no need for editing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>5</b></p> <p>The writing demonstrates strong control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage) and uses them effectively to enhance communication. Errors are so few and so minor that they do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• strong control of conventions.</li> <li>• effective use of punctuation that guides the reader through the text.</li> <li>• correct spelling, even of more difficult words.</li> <li>• paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure.</li> <li>• correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor.</li> <li>• correct grammar and usage that contribute to clarity and style.</li> <li>• skill in using a wide range of conventions in a sufficiently long and complex piece.</li> <li>• little need for editing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>4</b></p> <p>The writing demonstrates control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Minor errors, while perhaps noticeable, do not impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• control over conventions used, although a wide range is not demonstrated.</li> <li>• correct end-of-sentence punctuation, internal punctuation may sometimes be incorrect.</li> <li>• spelling that is usually correct, especially on common words.</li> <li>• basically sound paragraph breaks that reinforce the organizational structure.</li> <li>• correct capitalization; errors, if any, are minor.</li> <li>• occasional lapses in correct grammar and usage; problems are not severe enough to distort meaning or confuse the reader.</li> <li>• moderate need for editing.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3</b></p> <p>The writing demonstrates limited control of standard writing conventions (e.g., punctuation, spelling, capitalization, paragraph breaks, grammar and usage). Errors begin to impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• some control over basic conventions; the text may be too simple to reveal mastery.</li> <li>• end-of-sentence punctuation that is usually correct; however, internal punctuation contains frequent errors.</li> <li>• spelling errors that distract the reader; misspelling of common words occurs.</li> <li>• paragraphs that sometimes run together or begin at ineffective places.</li> <li>• capitalization errors.</li> <li>• errors in grammar and usage that do not block meaning but do distract the reader.</li> <li>• significant need for editing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>2</b></p> <p>The writing demonstrates little control of standard writing conventions. Frequent, significant errors impede readability. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• little control over basic conventions.</li> <li>• many end-of-sentence punctuation errors; internal punctuation contains frequent errors.</li> <li>• spelling errors that frequently distract the reader; misspelling of common words often occurs.</li> <li>• paragraphs that often run together or begin in ineffective places.</li> <li>• capitalization that is inconsistent or often incorrect.</li> <li>• errors in grammar and usage that interfere with readability and meaning.</li> <li>• substantial need for editing.</li> </ul>	<p><b>1</b></p> <p>Numerous errors in usage, spelling, capitalization, and punctuation repeatedly distract the reader and make the text difficult to read. In fact, the severity and frequency of errors are so overwhelming that the reader finds it difficult to focus on the message and must reread for meaning. The writing is characterized by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• very limited skill in using conventions.</li> <li>• basic punctuation (including end-of-sentence punctuation) that tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect.</li> <li>• frequent spelling errors that significantly impair readability.</li> <li>• paragraph breaks that may be highly irregular or so frequent (every sentence) that they bear no relation to the organization of the text.</li> <li>• capitalization that appears to be random.</li> <li>• a need for extensive editing.</li> </ul>

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**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

I am believe it much have been this new young center. It much after school and an weekend, to be the student can more learning and learn more, be not passage in the street in the losing and loss the time. Also is good this new center from the student and young, to have to make new thing and not boring in your homes.

My idea is what the student and young learn new thing, how in in the new young center can study the tes, make the homework. To have games how ball ball and football and another games, and new programs how to read and another's programs. Also to have more programs how; learning on top of the drug the young no consum, is not good for the health

I am intention is with the

**Writing**

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young who whoever to exceed  
who present in the new  
young center for learning more  
to the life.

The writer shows very limited skill in using conventions. There is definitely a need for extensive revision because basic punctuation...tends to be omitted, haphazard, or incorrect.



**writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

What do you think our youth is into now a days? What are the activities that grab their ations? What can you do to improve our activities? Take it from from some one whos in the age group, things have changed, kids now a day are into more ~~exciting~~ activities,

Skateboarding every one is doing it kids are riding, learning tricks, doing something they enjoy doing. An active like that would be a sum you could have a lot of participants.

How about a programme that could help build self-esteem, trust, and social skills. But with fun activities. Activities that would need everones participation, teamwork, trust, and minds. Activities that would be enjoyable, but also that would help your social life.

Drawing is another great active. It helps realise stress, anger, and depression. Many kids love to draw. Even only for fun.

**Writing**

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that would be a Overloft active.  
 You should take a moment  
 a think about those ideas. Trust  
 me if you want our ation, you  
 should do things we like. Go  
 around and ask the kids what  
 they like.

Frequent, significant errors impede readability. Punctuation errors are present both at ends of sentences and within sentences. Spelling errors frequently distract the reader.

**writing**

**DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.

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In my community, a lot of young people like students don't know what to do after school and on weekends, they want something to do to devote their time in it.

The community are planning the construction of a new youth center, but the problem is they don't know what kind of activities that the students like the most and can have a good time in it.

Then I suggest to the community what kind of liveliness should be included at the youth center because they have a positive influence on the youth. The government official don't believe me and they say to me that I should have a good reasons to have those kind of business and what their influence on the juvenility.

I suggest to have video games, department store for shopping, sporting activities, (music) club, movie theater, rivalry between students in sport, education, dance, singing, cake and candy shop... If we have those activities in the center will have a positive influence on the youth because the activities let them have a clean spirit and that's help them to stay far to the bad things, to have a good time, to be a busy person and to have



**Writing**

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participation to do on their free time and to benefit in the life.

\* I hope that the youth love those activities and find them interesting and the community accept my suggestions.

This paper does show limited control of standard writing. However, Errors begin to impede readability. Most words are spelled correctly or at least recognizable. The grammar and usage errors affect the readability and distract the reader. Punctuation shows emerging control, and paragraphs are employed correctly. There is a significant need for editing.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Activities such as pool, chess, pingpong and recreational sports should all be included in a youth center that should be built in this community. These activities will enable the kids to have something to do after school and to help keep kids out of trouble.

How many children come home after school and sit on the couch and watch T.V.? Too many. When this youth center opens it will provide a place for kids to come after school and play sports or chess. Playing sports will allow the kids to get exercise and to stay healthy. Playing chess will make the kids more intelligent. Playing chess increases the strength of ones mind, so why not have that available to the kids. Not only allowing the kids to have something to do, the youth center will help prevent kids from getting in trouble.

Many kids who have got into trouble have had nothing to do after school. By having a youth center kids can have a place to hang out with their friends and to have fun without getting into trouble. Playing team sports will someone and their friends to have fun competing and meeting new people, all the

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

while staying out of trouble.

By having this youth center kids will have a place to go and hang out with their friends. Also having a youth center will bring kids in to keep them out of trouble and to keep them healthy. By having all these benefits towards the kids, what person wouldn't want to have a youth center in their community.

The writer has control over standard writing conventions, but shows little range in applying more sophisticated punctuation. Internal punctuation is generally good, but attention is still needed ("ones mind"). The paper has correct capitalization and basically sound paragraph breaks. There is only a moderate need for convention editing.

**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Every community should give kids the right to a youth center. Without a youth center kids are not involved in structured activities. If children do not have that then they can become lazy and watch television all day long. There is even a chance that they could use drugs or become involved in gang violence. A youth center is a great way to keep kids involved in their community. I believe there should be a variety of different activities offered. My ideas are sports, a game hall, an art and music room, a study hall, and a community service group.

A variety of sports and a game hall would appeal to most children. Both activities would be for recreational purposes, although sports enrich children ways too. Sports help kids by building trust and teamwork, leadership skills, and strategy skills. There should also be an arts and music room for those who do not like sports. Kids could draw, paint, play guitar or drums, just to name a few.

**Writing****FINAL COPY**

It would be a great activity for kids to express their inner feelings and through the arts.

For the studios kids there should be a study hall and a community service program. The study hall would have tutors on hand to help kids. The study hall should also be equipped with computers, internet access, supplies (paper, pencils, etc.) and an encyclopedia set. The community service program could take place for an hour every day for kids who want to help out the community or get hours for college.

A youth center is a wonderful idea for children as long as it is filled with a wide range of activities. Any place that enriches children and helps them a better person should be a mandatory addition to every community.

Errors are so few and so minor that they do not impede readability. The writer has control of conventions and uses a wide range of them to effectively enhance communication. Paragraph breaks...reinforce the organizational structure; grammar and usage are good. Spelling and capitalization show skill. There is little need for editing.

Date: 6

STOP



**Writing****DIRECTIONS:** Now write your final copy on the following two pages.**FINAL COPY**

Many of our community's children suffer from an illness which is usually overlooked, boredom. There are simply not enough activities for kids in our community to participate in, and many of them end up spending their free time playing video games to keep themselves entertained. The problem with these activities is that the children get no exercise. The proposed Youth Center would provide a healthy alternative to video games and keep kids from getting bored.

The Youth Center should be a place where kids can go to enjoy themselves while maintaining good physical fitness. It should create team sport activities such as baseball, soccer, football, and basketball as well as more individual sports such as tennis, track, and swimming. These activities would provide kids with a healthy outlet for their energy and give them an alternative to destructive activities and video games. The new Youth Center would provide a great place for kids to hang out and have fun.

The center has other benefits as well. As children participate in team sports, they will learn the importance of cooperation. This is a valuable lesson which can benefit them for life. While achieving and maintaining physical fitness, the children will interact with each other and make good friends. Positive peer pressure can have a great influence on a child's mind and will help the children to avoid destructive decisions.

The Center will also have great psychological effects on kids. Participation in outdoor activities can help prevent depression, a

## Writing

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problem common among high school students. It has been proven that physical activity has many benefits for the mind and body, and it can help contribute to form a well-rounded individual with high self-esteem. The Youth Center would provide just this sort of beneficial physical activity.

The community could do nothing better for its youth than to go through with the construction of the new center. Not only will it give children a variety of spaces to participate in the positive effects both mental and physical, are impossible to deny. If it is true that children are a community's most valuable resource, it only makes sense that the new Youth Center be built to help them grow.

It has been proven that physical activity has definitely some other/extra mental benefits as well.

Errors are so few and so minor that the reader can easily skim right over them unless specifically searching for them. Correctness in spelling and organizational paragraph breaks enhances this paper's clarity. There is little... need for editing.

